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A Judicial Lobbyist

Elijah Barrett Prettyman

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 —

Nine months before Francis Gary Powers was downed in his U-2 reconnaissance plane over the Soviet Union, Elijah Barrett Prettyman wrote the following: "History establishes that either the behavior or the predicament of an individual citizen in a foreign country can bring into clash the powers of his own Government and those of the foreign power."

Man in the News
The words were written by Judge Prettyman as Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in upholding the State Department's right to prohibit travel by an American correspondent in Communist China.

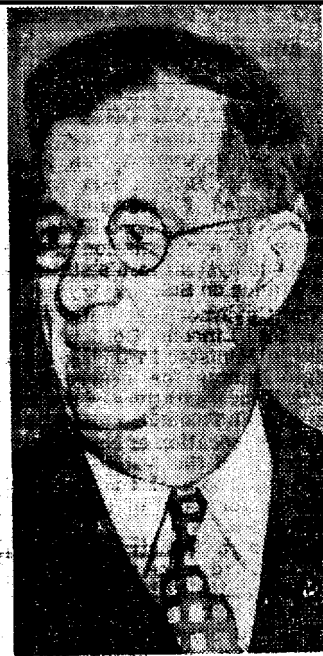
The words were prophetic. The "predicament" of Mr. Powers brought about the collapse of a summit conference, the cancellation of a Presidential visit to the Soviet Union and a great increase in tensions between the two countries.

It was to Judge Prettyman that the Administration turned to head an inquiry into whether Mr. Powers, in his predicament in the Soviet Union, fulfilled his contract with the Central Intelligence Agency.

His Standing Reinforced

The appointment served further to reinforce Judge Prettyman's standing as an arbiter of delicate matters with strong emotional and policy overtones.

E. Barrett Prettyman—as he prefers to sign his name—has the reputation among lawyers here as a jurist prone



Associated Press

Recognized as an arbiter of delicate matters.

as long.

Judge Prettyman has also been a successful advocate of judicial reform.

A soft-spoken, courtly Southerner—he was born at Lexington, Va., Aug. 23, 1891—Judge Prettyman has often been effective in lobbying with the largely Southern membership of the House District Committee.

When he announced his impending retirement as Chief Judge in 1960, the Judicial Conference of the United States gave him a standing ovation. Typically, however, his announcement of what he called "this terminal point of a lifetime in the law" was

within months



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